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ACADEMIC PART

The Nanyang Business School has consistently counted among the world's top-tier business schools, being one of the most established and comprehensive providers of business and management education in the Asia-Pacific. Their academic excellence and industry relevance is well recognized globally by independent publications and organizations. The MBA program is ranked regularly as one of Asia's best and is accredited by the European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS) and the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Their research has also received outstanding ratings in various academic surveys, with several of our faculty recognized as global leaders in fields such as accounting, finance, and culture intelligence.

The Nanyang MBA program features a rigorous and relevant curriculum, world-class faculty and teaching, and a unique global perspective with an Asian focus, with a group of high caliber individuals. Using mainly case studies with interactive lectures, and group projects, the program immerses you in a learning experience that prepares you to lead, manage, inspire, and innovate.

Classes, exams and program activities are scheduled in daytime and evening time hours Monday through Friday, and for part time - evenings and over weekends. However, the workload is very challenging.

The Nanyang MBA has different options to focus during your MBA, you have the option to obtain a double MBA with different schools (Waseda in Japan, ESSEC in France or St. Gallen in Switzerland) , you can do a general MBA or focus on a specialization, they have 7 different specializations (Finance, International Business, International Studies,

Knowledge Management, Strategy, Marketing or Technology). Each of the specialization with a clear path to follow and really focused courses in those specialization, just like when you finish your MBA you are really ready to work in the area you specialized. The strongest specialization is Finance that was the reason why I chose this program and after the courses I took I obtain a broader view of the issues in Finance.

During my stay in the program I took the courses of Corporate Finance, The Business Environment in China and Presentations Management that I will explain in more detail afterwards. Right now, I would like to mention some courses that some of my classmates told me that were interesting during the T2:

- Technology and E-business: A good course to have a general knowledge about trending topics in successful tech companies and the strategies implemented by those companies.
- Equity Securities: Nice course to understand financial markets in which you learn methods to value stocks.
- Chinese Classics: Course about how to apply the Chinese Classics (The Art of War, The Analects, etc.) in the business environment receiving a nice framework to work on it.

CORPORATE FINANCE:

It was a course covers advanced issues in corporate financial policy and investment decisions. Topics include behavioral corporate finance, practical issues in capital budgeting, real options, corporate financing, payout policy, advanced valuation methodologies, M&As, private equity, LBOs, corporate restructuring and ethics in finance.

The professor was Mr. Ho Kim Wai is a knowledgeable professor with a lot of experience in Corporate Finance positions (working for more than 10 years in Big4 companies and later on holding a Controller position in listed multinational companies).

The opinion of some of the classmates about his teaching methods was that he was taking for granted some of the issues taught in class, however, in my opinion his teaching methods were good if you always go to class prepared. You just need to read in advance the recommended chapter and then you can follow the class easily because he is going to give you a more in depth knowledge. In conclusion, I think it was a great class and with a lot of learning takeaways.

THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN CHINA:

The idea of this course is to provide an introduction to the economic, socio-political and corporate governance environment in China, offering participants with important background knowledge needed to engage China and exposing them to business opportunities presented by this dynamic economy.

The coverage of the course included contemporary Chinese society, the structure and management of the Chinese economy, industry sectors offering business opportunities, Chinese contract law, and the governance dynamics of state-owned and private firms in China in comparison with those in the West.

Course was considered as a half course (meaning only 6 classes in total) and was with two professors, which coordination was not really good, both professors were Singaporean with some exposure to China. One of the professors was a lawyer and the other a Businessman. In my opinion the second one was better. This course was the worst I took in Nanyang, we had a lot of assignments about boring topics (contract law and specific cases of Corporate Governance) that didn't add any value, furthermore, we spend more than half of the time of the class listening the presentations of the classmates about the same topics. In conclusion I would not recommend this course because was not well organized and the topics were not completely related in understand how to do business in China.

MANAGEMENT PRESENTATIONS:

This course provided a framework for planning, preparing and delivering oral presentations in a variety of management situations. Discussing strategies for image management, effective information transfer and persuasion. Participants practiced specific skills to express themselves confidently in a range of typical workplace situations:

relational speaking to connect with an audience; impromptu speaking (without advance preparation); persuasive speaking and retaining control during Q&As. All presentations were recorded and the video clips were made available to the course participants who would receive extensive instructor and peer feedback. Was a great course with a perfect ambience to lose the fear of Public Speaking.

LIFE AND CULTURE

Singapore is a modern and developed city / country / island with around 5 million inhabitants, in which almost half of them were not born locally. This can give you the idea of how multicultural country is it. With the convenient Singapore MRT you can move to different cultures in only 15 minutes. Some examples are:

- **CHINATOWN:** If you go to Chinatown you can completely feel the Chinese style of live in its typical market close to the MRT station.
- **LITTLE INDIA:** Moving to Little India you can be surrounded of Indians with its typical Indian stores and restaurants.
- **HOLLAND VILLAGE:** Going to Holland Village you can experience the flamboyant that the Europeans enjoy in Singapore in their condos full of facilities and the expensive restaurants around.
- **RAFFLES PLACE:** Raffles Place is the financial center and when you get out of the MRT station you see yourself a tiny human being under those huge skyscrapers.

Singapore is a great destination that provides ample ways for people to amuse and entertain themselves. People can choose from resorts, parks and cineplexes to bars and pubs to spend quality time and have a lot of fun.

Parks and resorts are aplenty in Singapore each offering a variety of rides and are set on different themes. 'Night Safari' is unique and can be experienced in Singapore only.

While on a Night Safari, one can witness animals engaged in their night life like looking out for food or prowling. The zoo currently houses more than 900 animals of 135 exotic species such as African bongo, Cape buffalo, striped hyena, blue sheep, golden jackal and one-horned rhinoceroses. Some of the famous parks are mentioned below.

Furthermore, close to Nanyang Technological University you have the Jurong Bird park, that is the biggest, largest bird park in the world with a collection of Parrots and 380 species of birds. It is a great place only 15 minutes from the University and for a reasonable price of \$18 Singapore Dollars to enjoy a day off from the stressful student life.

Cineplexes provide a fulfilling experience for watching movies and spending good times with friends and relatives. Singapore has good cineplexes dotted all over for a pleasant movie watching with a lot of other fun options available for the cinemagoers. Usually this movie theaters are in Shopping malls and you can enjoy a full day walking around the Shopping Mall to finish spending \$8 Singapore Dollar watching a nice movie.

Pubbing is another favorite activity of the exchange students. People indulge in night bar hopping and chill out the entire night around the Clarke Quay, enjoying the happy hours that are roughly between 17:00 and 21:00 hours. And after the happy hour the people enjoy going clubbing to the Zouk or other nightclubs around the Orchard Road.

Shopping is another favorite activity in Singapore, you can find a Shopping Mall in almost every MRT station, next to Nanyang University you can find the Jurong Point or in other close MRT station you can find the Clementi Mall. However, the most astonishing area to shopping is the Orchard Road where you can find a full variety of Shopping Malls:

- **313@Somerset** - 313@somerset offers an exceptional range of leading international and local brands that will deliver a unique, expansive mid level fashion brands (Zara, H&M, Uniqlo, Adidas, Reebok, Forever21, etc.).

- **Far East Plaza** - Over 600 retailers, selling from youths' hip and happening clothing and apparel, video stores, electronics, food, tattoo shops, hair and beauty salons, and so much more. Ideally the teenagers' hang out.
- **Ion Orchard** - ION Orchard is one of the latest iconic shopping mall with a spectacular frontage and cutting edge designs and concepts. It offers the best brands in the world for their flagship, concept and lifestyle stores within one development, sprawling over eight levels of shopping space – It is located on the prime site of Singapore's commercial and shopping artery.
- **Wisma Atria** – where the Orchard MRT is beside, here's where you can expect to find restaurants, photo shops, clothing and apparels, jewelry shops, makeover studios, mobile phone shops and so much more. Look out for its beautiful aquarium at basement one.

Furthermore there are other must see areas in Singapore, like the Sentosa Island a place you feel like you are not anymore in the city with its huge amusement park, its casino and the beach, nice place to spend whole day or weekend.

Finally, being in Singapore puts you very close to other neighboring South East Asian country. Even I couldn't travel a lot, here are some places to check out and recommended from my exchange classmates, however, it is important to check if you need a visa to go to these countries:

- **Johor Bahru, Malaysia:** This is the closest international destination to Singapore. Take the MRT to Kranji Station, cross the pedestrian fly over and take Bus 170. This will bring you straight to the Singapore – Malaysia Border. Go down from the bus, go through Singapore immigrations, ride the bus again to cross the bridge, go down again to go through Malaysian immigration, and leave the immigration building. You are officially in Malaysia in a city full of excitement and places to have fun.
- **Batam and Bintang, Indonesia:** These are two different places in Indonesia and they are easily accessible by a ferry that leaves near the Harbourfront MRT

station area. Some travel agencies offer package tours inclusive of hotels and meals.

- **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia:** Kuala Lumpur is the capital city of Malaysia and a great place to visit. The Petronas Towers is the landmark here and there is a free tour going to the sky bridge every morning. Be there early to queue up for it. The park in front of the towers is a sight to see. Air, rail and bus are the best way to reach Kuala Lumpur.
- **Phuket and Bangkok, Thailand:** With the rise of the budget airlines in Asia, going to Bangkok from Singapore is very easy and reasonable. You have to make your bookings early though to get the price you want. Other alternatives to get there is to use the full service airline or by bus. Bangkok and Phuket does not need any further instructions for the adventurous among us.
- **Others:** Furthermore the convenient budget airlines from Singapore give you the opportunity to travel to the following places: Malacca (Malaysia), Cameron Highlands (Malaysia), Genting (Malaysia), Bali (Indonesia), Hong Kong, Rawa Island (Malaysia), Perth (Australia), among others.

NOTICES FOR FUTURE STUDENTS

EXPENDITURES

As recently was announced, this year Singapore became the most expensive city in Asia so it is really important to be prepared with a higher budget compared with Taiwan, the good thing is in the Campus the food is quite cheap compared with the city:

- Rent: In my exchange it was not possible to rent on-campus so it is necessary to rent outside of campus. The price ranges a lot but it is possible to find a decent room around the university for around 600 to 800 SGD. See below more recommendation about housing.
- Food: Food in campus canteen ranges from 2.5 SGD to 5 SGD, if you want more quality food you also can find. However, if you go to the city the food won't be cheaper than 5 SGD in the Shopping Mall Canteens.
- Transportation: the taxi to the city usually cost around 30 SGD from campus, and the MRT train is charged depending to the distance, as example from Nanyang to City Hall the cost would around 3.5 SGD (1 SGD the bus + 2.5 SGD the MRT).
- Entertainment: an international movie would cost 8 SGD, beer is sold at 7 SGD.
- Course materials are free of charge, however you may want to buy an additional recommended book for around 60 SGD.

HOUSING

As I mentioned before the school is not providing on-campus accommodation, so you need to find by yourself accommodation. My suggestion regarding find the right place to rent are the following:

- I don't recommend rent an off-campus dorm, they are quite expensive for short-term accommodation. (around 900 SGD - double than the on-campus dorms) and the accommodation facilities are not the same quality as the I-House in NCCU.
- Find a rent close to the MRT stations close to Nanyang to have an easy access to the city and to the school. I would recommend a place next to Boonlay or Pioneer, more Boonlay because close you have Jurong Point (a quite nice Shopping Mall).

- If you rent a room in an HDB apartment in this area the price should be between 600 and 800 SGD, however, if you rent in the city you would expect to pay at least 900 SGD.

TRANSPORTATION

Since the Campus is quite big, there are four different free buses inside it with different itineraries that you will need to use for sure to move from the MBA classes to the library or to the sports center. Regarding the buses that goes to the campus, there two buses that go from the MRT station to the campus, 199 and 179, my recommendation is take always number 179 because is faster and has an stop next to the MBA classes, however, if you take bus 199 is slower and the bus stop is 20 minutes walking from the MBA classes.